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## CONTENTS

USSR: Suslov injected a cautious note on Soviet - West German relations in his October Anniversary speech. (Page 1)

NATO: A number of Allies want to create a fund to finance qualitative improvements of NATO facilities. (Page 3)

JORDAN: Husayn continues to strengthen his administration. (Page 4)

BRAZIL: The large-scale roundup of leftists will provoke new charges of repression against the Medici administration. (Page 5)

IVORY COAST - SOUTHERN AFRICA: Houphouet-Boigny is promoting a dialogue with southern Africa. (Page 7)

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR: Message on revolution anniversary (Page 8)

25X1

SECRET

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USSR: The October Anniversary speech by Politburo member Suslov yesterday was most noteworthy for its boasts of recent economic successes and its treatment of West German relations.

The speech proved to be the usual panegyric to Soviet achievements, combined with a reminder of unresolved problems. Suslov boasted of Moscow's recent economic successes, said that the most important aspects of the current five-year plan will be fulfilled, and described this year's grain harvest as the largest in Soviet history. Omissions regarding the status of the next five-year plan (1971-1975), however, indicate that major problems over resource allocation persist.

The foreign policy section of the speech was for the most part in a similarly positive vein. Suslov professed Moscow's continued interest in a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, censured US activity there and in Indochina, and expressed Soviet willingness to search for accommodations in these and other areas. In virtually every instance, however, Suslov's expressions of conciliation were balanced with notes of caution and, occasionally, alarm.

Suslov's treatment of West Germany seemed best to exemplify this approach. Though Suslov called the Soviet - West German treaty a "foundation" for improved relations with Bonn and the rest of Europe, he pointedly warned that "influential reactionary forces" were threatening ratification. Moreover, he revived the theme that the USSR must maintain its alert against "revanchist" and "militarist" forces which continue to threaten European stability. In contrast, other recent regime pronouncements-- including a speech by Brezhnev on 2 October--ignored calls for vigilance and went beyond Suslov's characterization of the Soviet - West German treaty, affirming that there had already been certain benefits ]

from it although the treaty has not yet been ratified. Suslov's cautionary note might be attributable to Moscow's heightened concern over the durability of the Brandt coalition, which will be tested by a West German state election tomorrow. It also suggests, however, that the existing consensus within the collective on this issue is for a more guarded, and perhaps less forthcoming, approach towards Bonn.

Suslov's remarks on China are similarly cautionary, and are cooler than other recent regime pronouncements. Suslov said that the Peking talks "are not easy ones," and elsewhere in the address added a harsh denunciation of unnamed "adventuristically minded left pseudorevolutionaries." Suslov's reversion to high-pitched polemical language directed against China also seems out of tune with Brezhnev's recent statements on the issue.

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NATO: A number of Allies intend to urge, as the core of a burden-sharing plan, creation of a European fund that would finance qualitative improvements in NATO facilities and systems.

The West Germans, following earlier efforts to line up European support for annual multilateral lump-sum payments to the US, will now take the lead in the new initiative at a meeting of the European defense ministers (Eurogroup) on Tuesday. The fund could be used to strengthen the defenses of Allied airfields and to improve the integrated communication system--areas in which NATO military planners now see serious deficiencies.

The Dutch, Norwegians, and Italians, but not the British, reportedly will give active support to the plan. London recently announced that in lieu of a cash contribution to a burden-sharing plan, it would increase its NATO force commitments, as the US has urged all NATO members to do. The projected British increases, however, are severely limited, reflecting London's tight budgetary situation.

Bonn's current position on direct budgetary support through multilateral burden-sharing is still to be determined, but the West Germans have indicated that their contribution might go mainly to the special fund. The Germans are willing to finance up to 40 percent of the fund, and are considering other projects, such as a possible increase in military aid to Turkey, as contributions to burden-sharing.

Bonn hopes that it can convince all the other Eurogroup members to make at least token contributions. It remains to be seen whether sufficient funds will be pledged to make this approach meaningful, but its main thrust appears to be toward European assumption of a larger share of the Alliance burden through closer cooperation among themselves.

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JORDAN: King Husayn continues to strengthen his new administration.

The formation of the strong Wasfi Tal cabinet has been followed by numerous new appointments, ranging from army division commanders down through provincial governors to district officers in the rural administration. Major General Zaid bin Shakir, the King's tough cousin, has revitalized the military command by appointing new commanders to the four divisions and one independent brigade that make up the combat elements of the Jordanian Army. He apparently was rewarding those who performed well during the recent crisis.

The King also has appointed the former chief of general intelligence, whose dismissal had been brought about by fedayeen demands during the crisis in June, to the royal court, and a brother of the prime minister was made the royal secretary. Six new appointments were made to important provincial administrative positions; 13 important transfers were made among senior police officers throughout the country.

Husayn is clearly trying to rebuild the Jordanian administrative structure from top to bottom in order to reflect the firm policies of the new central government. In the army, a growing Jordanian, as opposed to army, loyalty reportedly arose out of the sense of outrage experienced by East Bank officers when they realized that the fedayeen were at least as willing to fight and even destroy the Jordanian Government as they were to attack Israel. It is not yet clear how far this feeling of Jordanian nationalism has spread among East Bank Jordanians or how much of it is reflected in the new appointments. But it seems obvious that the King is drawing heavily upon proven loyalties to prepare his administration to face future fedayeen challenges. [redacted]

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BRAZIL: The large-scale roundup of suspected leftists is certain to cause new charges of repression against the Medici administration.

The primary justification for the operation appears to have been the security forces' belief that leftists were preparing to launch a massive terrorist campaign around 4 November in connection with the first anniversary of the death of urban guerrilla leader Carlos Marighella. Plans for the campaign reportedly were found among the effects of Marighella's successor, who died resisting Sao Paulo police in late October.

Estimates of the number of persons arrested vary from several hundred to more than 5,000. Some arrests appear to have been based on evidence of involvement in subversion; others were aimed at leftist intellectuals and politicians who have been harsh critics of the military-dominated governments since the 1964 revolution; many individuals have been detained because they were not carrying proper identity documents. Some of the most prominent detainees have been released, but the lack of formal charges and continuing press controls could enable authorities to hold other prisoners for investigation indefinitely.

The massive arrests have been heavily criticized by the press, and some high military officers have questioned their wisdom and effectiveness.

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The President has been taking careful steps, including scheduling congressional elections for 15 November, to convince domestic and foreign public opinion of the essentially "democratic" nature of his administration. The dragnet will certainly set back this endeavor. [Redacted]

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IVORY COAST - SOUTHERN AFRICA: President Houphouet-Boigny is openly promoting a dialogue between white-ruled southern Africa and the rest of the continent.

The Ivory Coast President outlined his policy initiative in a speech to a congress of the ruling Democratic Party on 30 October and again on 4 November in discussions with newsmen. He called for an African summit conference to consider a peaceful approach to the problem of apartheid in South Africa. He announced that prior to this conference his government would contact all African heads of state to push a policy of negotiation and dialogue toward the "white redoubt" states.

Houphouet has long believed that unbending hostility toward South Africa is an exercise in futility. He is firmly convinced that South African policies cannot be changed by force.

By embarking on this course Houphouet is likely to deepen the developing split among African governments on the southern Africa issue. Radical African governments, including Zambia, Tanzania, and most of the Arab regimes, can be expected to oppose the move strongly. Reception will be favorable in at least some of the moderate French-speaking countries-- Malagasy President Tsiranana has already hailed Houphouet's initiative. Among former British dependencies, Ghana's Prime Minister and Malawi's President are both already on record as favoring a policy of dialogue rather than force.

Houphouet has ruled out diplomatic recognition of South Africa at this time, but political circles in Pretoria are interpreting his statement as a "first step" in that direction.

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NOTES

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR: Peking's message on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the October revolution extends "warm congratulations" to the Soviet people, but unlike last year claims that "differences of principle" should not hinder normal state relations between the two countries. The message, addressed to the Soviet Government but not the party, adds that "effective measures" based on the principles of peaceful coexistence to settle "important outstanding questions in state relations" are in the best interest of all concerned. This is the line the Chinese adopted just prior to the opening of the Peking talks. They may be repeating it at this time because they are anxious to avoid being branded "obstructionists" by Moscow, which has been stressing its "conciliatory" attitude in public in recent months. It is unlikely that the message reflects forward movement at the talks, which both sides have recently reaffirmed to be stale-mated. [redacted]

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